

Sears, Roebuck and Co., and Toyota Motor Corporation. Today, his firm includes 75 trial attorneys in five offices across Florida and Alabama. Thom has also been listed in Florida Super Lawyers every year from 2007 to 2010.

In addition to spending his career as a public servant, judge and prosecutor, Thom is a dedicated father and grandfather.

Throughout his four decades in public service, Thom Rumberger embodied the importance of looking out for the common good. Thanks to the selfless commitment of folks like Thom, the restoration of America's Everglades is well underway.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan resolution recognizing and honoring the life and work of Thom Rumberger.

HONORING STEVE LEVESQUE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the accomplishments of Steve Levesque of Maine.

The National Association of Defense Communities has honored Mr. Levesque with its 2011 Base Redevelopment Leadership Award for his hard work on behalf of Brunswick, Maine and the surrounding communities. This award recognizes Mr. Levesque as the country's best base redevelopment official for his work in leading the conversion of Brunswick Naval Air Station for civilian reuse by the Mid-coast Regional Redevelopment Authority.

Steve serves as the executive director of the Mid-coast Regional Redevelopment Authority and has been charged with overseeing reuse of the 3,200-acre former air station, which closed as a military installation on May 31.

Recipients of the Base Redevelopment Leadership Award exhibit leadership abilities that not only enhance the success of their project, but provide management, direction and vision to building an effective and thriving community redevelopment program. The recipient must have proven success in achieving the ongoing goals of the redevelopment plan and creating a successful economic development plan. Steve has met and surpassed these qualifications with his work on the Brunswick Naval Air Station transition.

I am confident that Steve will carry on his track record of excellence in his continued role with the Mid-Coast Region Redevelopment Authority working on the reuse of the Brunswick Naval Air Station. Steve has left a lasting mark on this region and the state of Maine. On behalf of the people of Maine, it is with pride that I congratulate Steve for his excellent work.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Steven Levesque on the receipt of this award, and in thanking him for his dedication to the state of Maine.

RECOGNIZING EUROPE'S BLACK POPULATION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution recognizing Europe's Black population and expressing solidarity with their struggle as we mark 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent.

Some years ago, on April 29, 2008, I chaired a U.S. Helsinki Commission hearing entitled, "The State of (In)visible Black Europe: Race, Rights, and Politics" which focused on the more than seven million people who make up Europe's Black or Afro-descendant population.

Since that hearing, I have been calling for the recognition of Black Europeans, who, despite their numerous contributions to European society, like African-Americans, face the daily challenges of racism and discrimination. This includes being the targets of violent hate crimes and racial profiling, in addition to continuing inequalities in education, housing, employment, and in other sectors. Few Black Europeans are in leadership positions, and political participation is also limited for many, providing obstacles for addressing these problems.

This resolution supports the 2011 International Year for People of African Descent goal to recognize and support the economic, political, cultural, and social inclusion of Black Europeans, including by urging European governments to develop and implement anti-discrimination legislation and other plans of action in cooperation with Black European communities.

Given the lessons learned from our own civil rights struggle and continuing anti-discrimination and diversity efforts in Europe, the resolution also supports an increase in transatlantic cooperative efforts between U.S. and European governments, civil society, and the private sector to provide useful partnerships and assistance in combating racism and discrimination abroad and at home. Specifically, U.S. government support is requested to aid such efforts in line with U.S. support for human rights.

I believe that cooperation is key to addressing the global problems of racism and discrimination. It is for this reason that, since 2009, I have worked in cooperation with minority and other European legislators to hold annual events in Brussels, Belgium at the European Parliament focused on addressing the situation of Blacks and other minorities, with a focus on increasing political participation. These events include the 2009 Black European Summit: Transatlantic Dialogue on Political Inclusion and the 2010 and 2011 Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conferences, where solutions, such as a U.S.-EU Joint Action Plan on Racial and Ethnic Equality and Inclusion have been discussed.

As I continue to work on these initiatives, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this Resolution Recognizing Black Europeans during the International Year or People of African Descent. Additionally, I would like to submit the following background materials on Black Europeans for the official record.

HONORING GRETCHEN KIMBALL AND ANNETTE CALDWELL

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gretchen Kimball and Annette Caldwell for receiving the 2011 "Maine Agriculture in the Classroom" Teacher of the Year award and for receiving one of the five "Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture" awards from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and the National Agriculture in the Classroom Consortium.

Gretchen and Annette created the Buckfield Garden Project at Buckfield Junior/Senior High School in Buckfield, ME. The project is a 1.2-acre garden and farm stand run by the teachers' middle school students. The students research and plan which plants to include in the garden, and every step of the process, from soil cultivation to managing the budget, involves student participation. The project teaches the students agricultural, business and problem solving skills.

The Buckfield Garden Project has become a point of pride for the entire community, not just the students. In the project's first harvest, the students earned \$3,500. The students elected to donate this money to a local family struggling with severe medical hardship. Through Gretchen and Annette's unique and innovative approach to education, these students are learning practical skills as well as making valuable connections with their community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating Gretchen Kimball and Annette Caldwell's achievement in receiving these awards.

RECOGNIZING MS. CAROL J. ROSELLE FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PALM BEACH COMMUNITY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a lady who has made a lifelong commitment to transforming her talents and hobbies into thousands of acts of kindness and giving. Ms. Carol J. Roselle, a resident of West Palm Beach, FL, has been knitting and crocheting since she was a young girl during World War II. Her Aunt Emma would take her to Red Cross meetings, where Ms. Roselle observed women knitting cuffs to keep soldiers warm. Throughout the intervening years she has knit an array of gifts for friends and family members, but when she began volunteering for the Lantana Health Center in 2002, the scope of her giving expanded dramatically.

Ms. Roselle and her knitting group, the 3 B's, have spent the last 9 years lovingly knitting booties, blankets, and beanies for newborns, as well as lap blankets for veterans in wheelchairs at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Riviera Beach, FL. Over the years, the ladies have knitted thousands of items, and they have donated each one out of the kindness of their hearts. Ms. Roselle and her